

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Previously Presented) A plate comprising:

a unitary body with a pair of portions each having a first width and a central portion disposed therebetween having a second width, the first width being substantially greater than the second width, and the body being formed of cortical bone; and

the unitary body further having at least one partially demineralized region with a third width smaller than the second width,

wherein the at least one partially demineralized region confers flexibility to the plate.

9. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of fastener holes in the unitary body.

10. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 9, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis, and the at least one partially demineralized region comprises a first at least partially demineralized region that is coaxial with the longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 10, wherein the first at least partially demineralized region extends substantially across the unitary body.

12. (Original) The plate of claim 10, wherein the fastener holes are disposed proximate ends of the body.

13. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 12, wherein the fastener holes are disposed on a central longitudinal axis, and the first at least partially demineralized region is coaxial therewith.

14. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 13, wherein the at least one partially demineralized region further comprises at least a second at least partially demineralized region that is disposed transverse to the first at least partially demineralized region.

15. (Original) The plate of claim 14, wherein the at least second at least partially demineralized region is generally perpendicular to the first at least partially demineralized region.

16. (Original) The plate of claim 15, wherein the at least second at least partially demineralized region intersects at least one fastener hole.

17. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 8, wherein the body is relatively thin compared to each of the first widths and the second width.

18. (Currently amended) A plate comprising:
a unitary body formed of cortical bone having a first portion, a second portion, and a central portion extending therebetween, the first and second portions with a pair of portions each having a first width, the and a central portion disposed therebetween having a second width, wherein the first width is being substantially greater than the second width, and the body being formed of cortical bone; and

wherein only a portion of the central portion is unitary body further having at least one partially demineralized region for conferring, wherein the at least one partially demineralized region confers flexibility to the plate, and

wherein the at least one partially demineralized region extends substantially across the second width and is configured with edges extending transverse to a central longitudinal axis of the body.

19. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 17, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis and the at least partially demineralized region extends transverse to the central longitudinal axis.

20. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of fastener holes in the unitary body.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The plate of claim 8, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis, and the length of the body along the central axis is between about 10 mm and about 20 mm.

23. (Original) The plate of claim 22, wherein the first width is between about 4 mm and about 7 mm.

24. (Original) The plate of claim 23, wherein the body has a thickness between about 1 mm and about 3 mm.

25. (Previously Presented) The plate of claim 23, wherein the first width is about 5 mm, and the body has a length of about 15 mm, along the central longitudinal axis and a thickness of about 2 mm transverse to the central longitudinal axis.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn)

28. (Withdrawn)

29. (Withdrawn)

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Withdrawn)